IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Not Entered)

5. (Not Entered)

6. (Not Entered)

7. (Not Entered)

8. (New) A semi-automatic opener for a jar closed by a threaded cover comprising:
a first portion including a first body defining a base for receiving the jar thereon;
a second portion including a second body mounted to said first body so as to be superimposed to said first body;
one of said first and second portions having:

a first turntable rotatably mounted to the respective body between said first and second portions via a rotatable shaft for rotating at least one of said jar and said cover;
a first toothed rack mounted to said first turntable; said first toothed rack having a first central gear coaxially mounted to said rotatable shaft and a first pair of rack elements each interlocked to said first central gear for reciprocating movement towards and away each other upon rotation of said first central gear; and
first pair of immobilizing elements for immobilizing said at least one of said jar and said cover; each of said pair of immobilizing elements being secured to a respective rack element of said

first toothed rack; and

the other of said first and second portions being provided with second immobilizing elements mounted to the respective body for immobilizing the other of said at least one of said jar and said cover;

whereby, in operation, the jar is positioned onto said base and its cover is immobilized by said second immobilizing elements; said rotatable shaft is then rotated causing said first pair of immobilizing elements to move towards each other until they grip said at least one of said jar and said cover; rotating said shaft then causes a torsional force between said jar and said cover so as to unlock the cover.

9. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, wherein at least one of said first pair of immobilizing elements and said second immobilizing elements includes a pair of jaws.

10. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, wherein at least one of said first pair of immobilizing elements and said second immobilizing elements are lined with a friction material.

11. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 10, wherein said friction material is rubber.

12. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, wherein said first turntable includes at least one friction member.

13. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 12, wherein said at least one friction member is made of rubber.

14. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, further comprising a motor for driving said rotatable shaft.

15. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 14, wherein said motor is provided with a driving shaft; said rotatable shaft is coupled to said driving shaft via at least one coupling gear.

16. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 14, wherein said motor is operable through a button.

17. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, wherein said rotatable shaft is mounted to the respective one of said first and second bodies via a low-friction cylindrical sleeve.

18. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, wherein the other of said first and second portions being provided with a second turntable rotatably mounted to said second body and a second toothed rack mounted to said second turntable; said second toothed rack having a second central gear rotatably mounted to said second body and a second pair of rack elements each interlocked to said second central gear for reciprocating movement towards and away each other upon rotation of said second central gear; said second immobilizing elements include two immobilizing elements, each secured to a respective one of said second pair of rack elements. whereby, in operation, rotating said rotatable shaft causes the rotation of the central gear of the first turntable which in turn causes the rotation in unison of the first turntable, the jar and said second turntable until second immobilizing elements grip on the cover.

19. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 18, wherein said second turntable includes at least one friction member.

20. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 19, wherein said at least one friction member is made of rubber.

21. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 8, wherein said second body is mounted to said first body via two serrated posts that are secured to said first body; said second body being provided with two apertures for receiving said posts; said second portion further comprising an horizontal shaft rotatably mounted to said second body and two gears, each coaxially mounted to said horizontal shaft so as to interlock with a respective serrated post;
whereby, the rotating said horizontal shaft allows varying a distance between said first and

second portions of the opener.

22. (New) A jar opener as recited in claim 21, wherein at least one of two longitudinal ends of said horizontal shaft being provided with a knob.

23. (New) A jar opener as recited in 22, wherein said knob and said second body are provided with respective first and second projections for preventing the rotation of the horizontal shaft, thereby locking the second body along the serrated posts.